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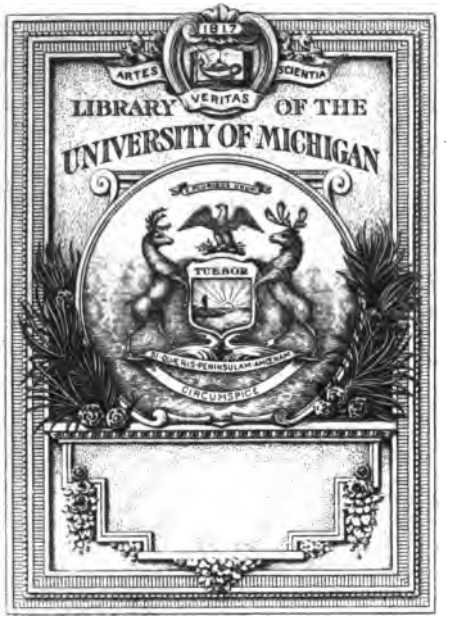
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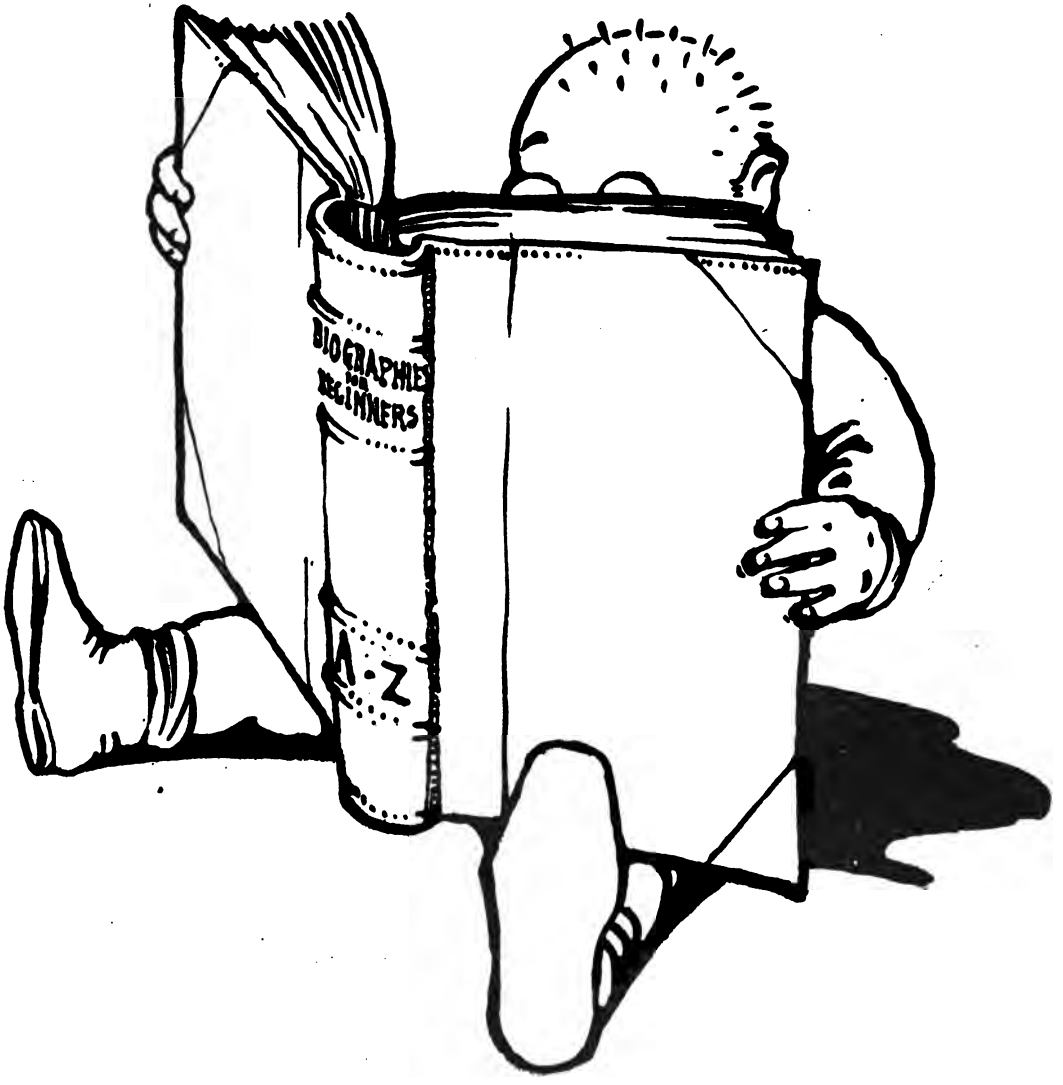
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PREFACE

For the idea of this book
The reader is urged to look
At Biographies for Beginners,
By a couple of British sinners.


BIOGRAPHIES
FOR
BEGINNERS
A-Z

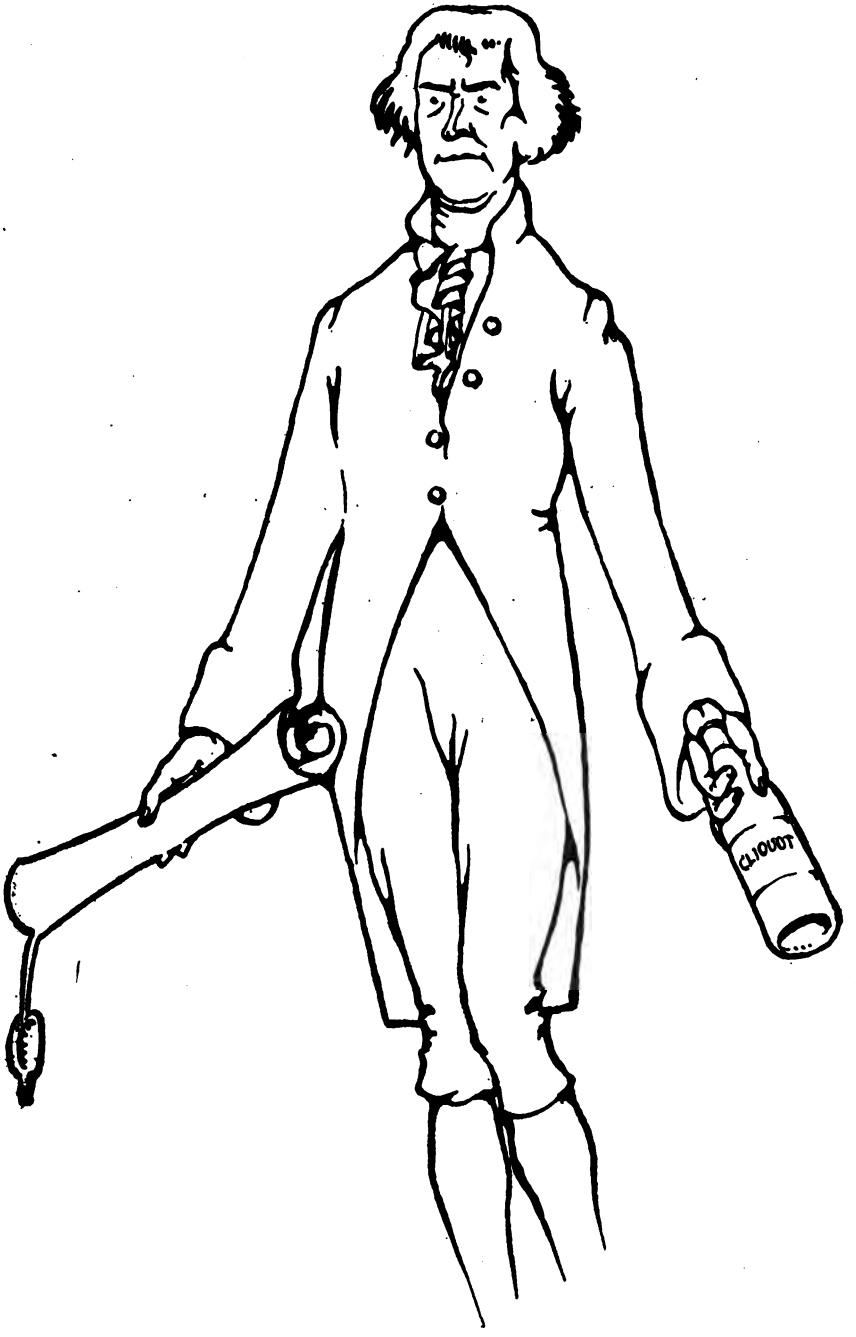
GEORGE WASHINGTON

In crises demanding truth
Washington was over-indulged in youth.
When he said: "I can not tell a lie,"
They neglected to make him try.



THOMAS JEFFERSON

When T. Jefferson finished the Declaration
He would have felt but scanty elation
Could he have foreseen that the end meant
Anything like the 18th Amendment.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

It is reported that Benjamin Franklin
With envy and hate is ranklin'
Because Marconi
Makes such piles of money.



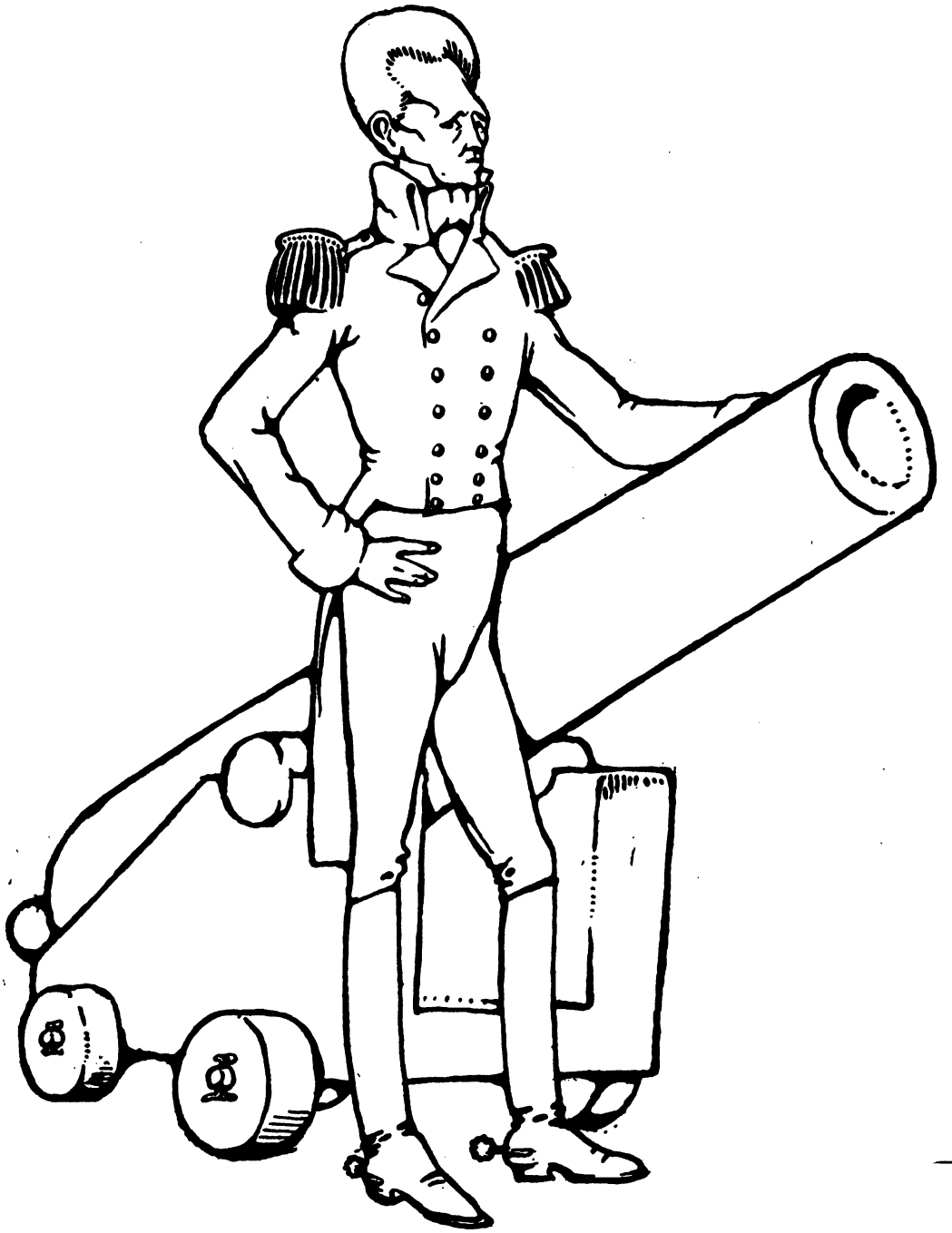
ALEXANDER HAMILTON

When Hamilton challenged Burr
He addressed him as "Sir";
We should be scrupulously polite
When we fight.



ANDREW JACKSON

To most persons Andrew Jackson means
The Battle of New Orleens—
Which pronunciation
Fills the Creoles with indignation.



COMMODORE PERRY

Although Commodore Perry
Often went fishing in a wherry,
It was upon no such trip
That he remarked, "Don't give up the ship."



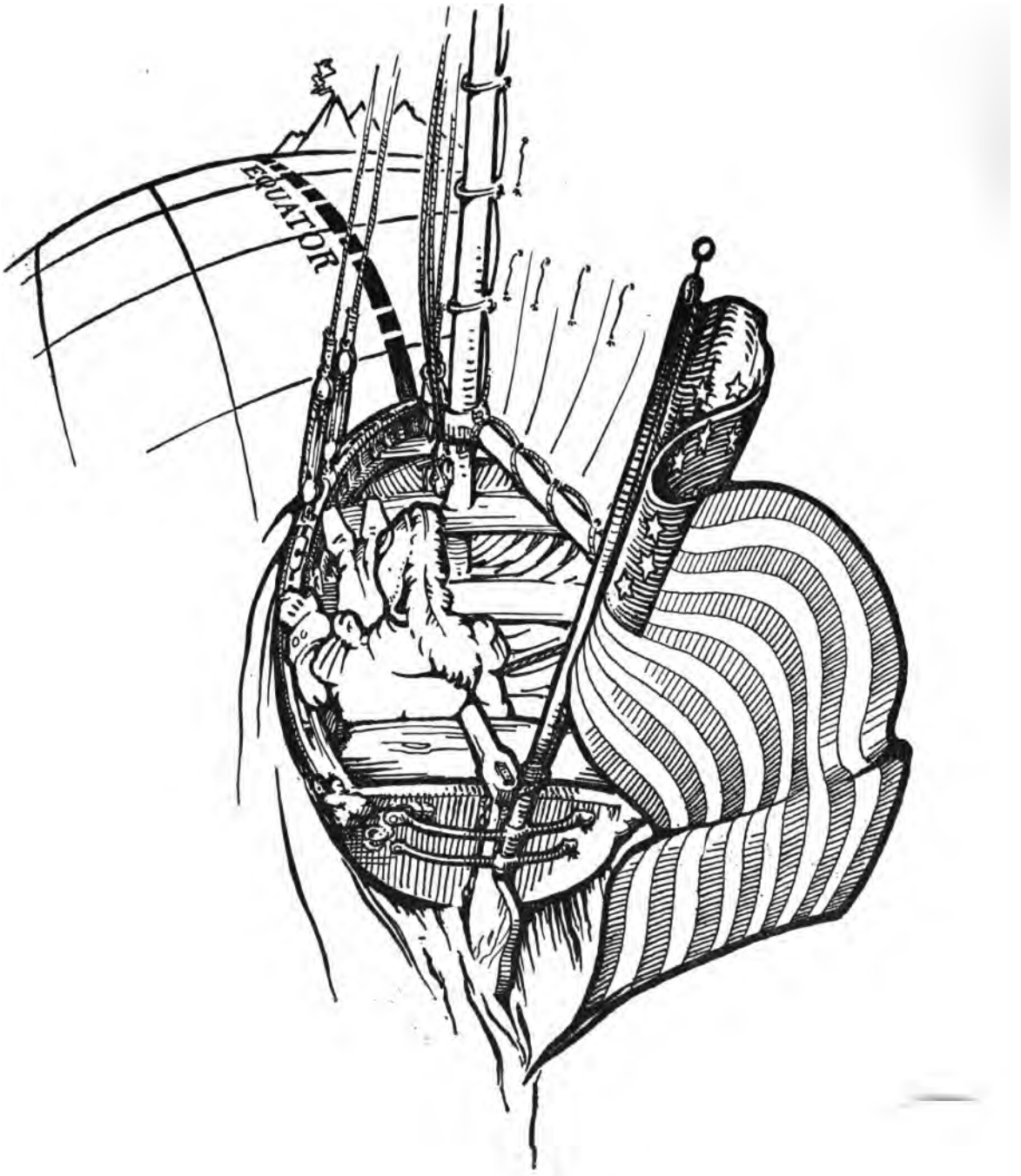
BRIGHAM YOUNG

Brigham Young
Has been described by pen and tongue;
But who has attempted to draw
Any picture of his mothers-in-law?



COMMODORE DECATUR

Commodore Decatur
Never said that he invented The Equator.
"As for Old Glory, I'll never fail her,"
Declared this unassuming sailor.


EQUATOR

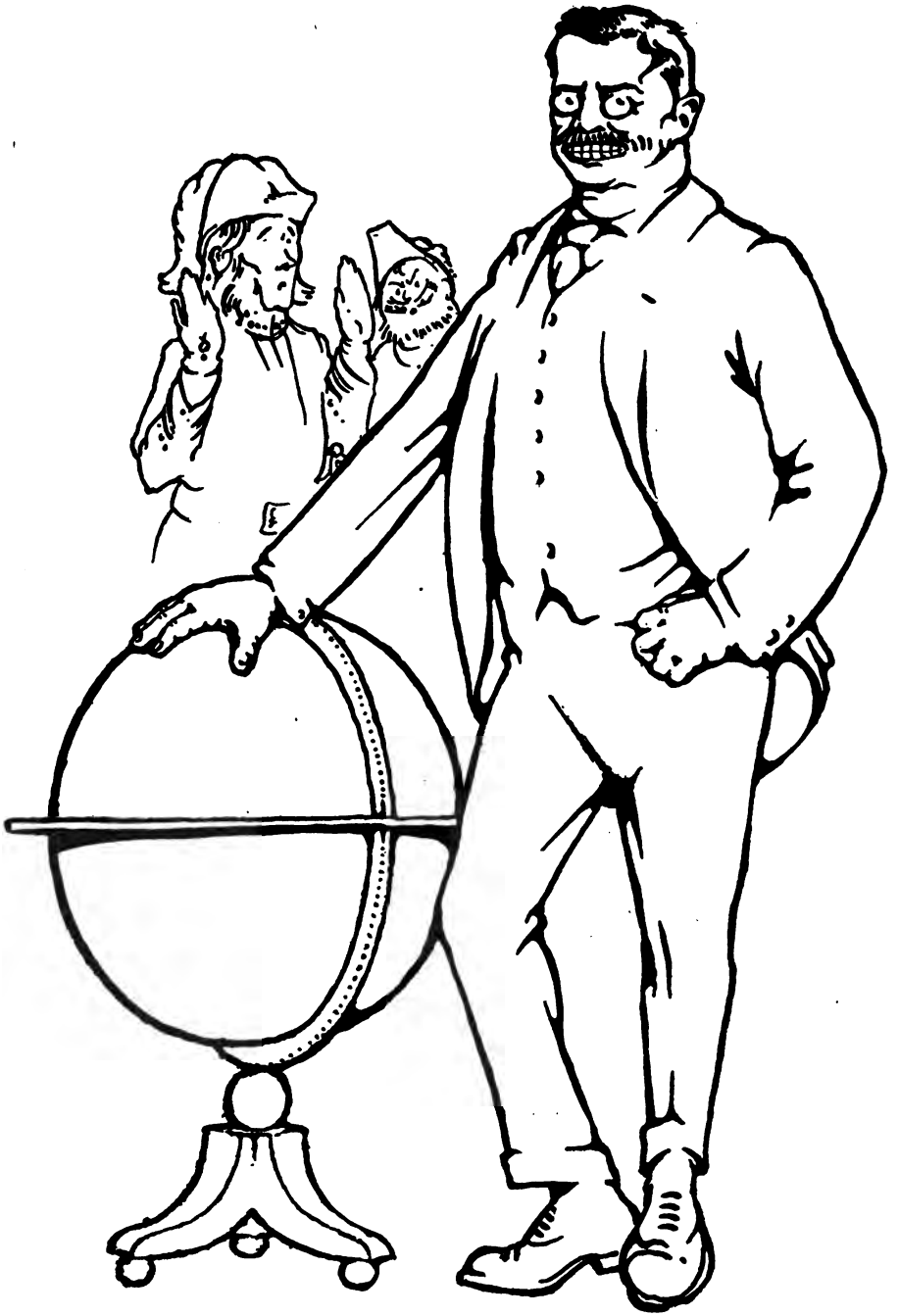
GENERAL GRANT

It is possible that General Grant
May have had an Aunt;
But nobody maintains
That she was associated with his campaigns.



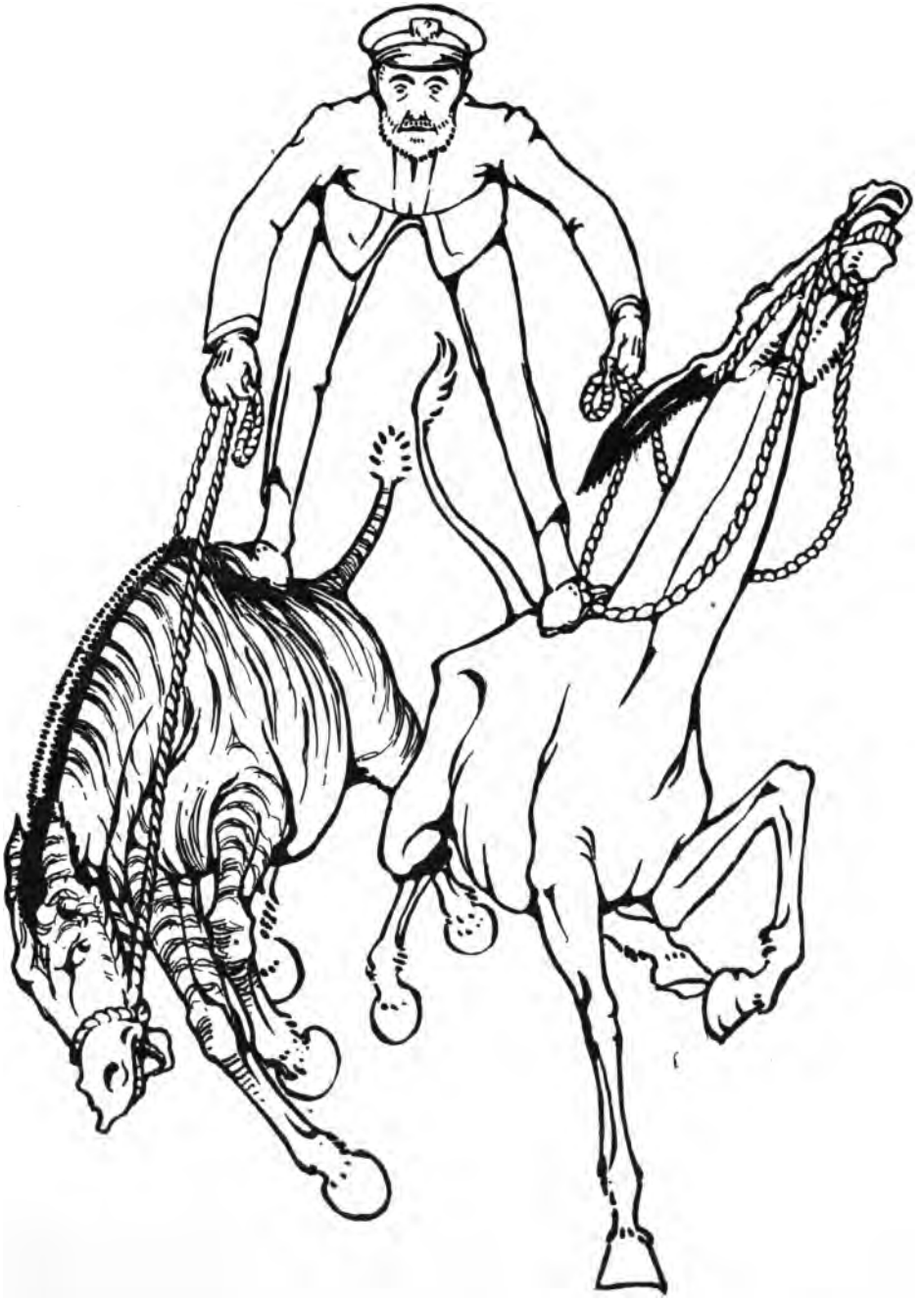
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Theodore Roosevelt hurled
The American fleet around the world.
Some Admirals on shore said T. R.
Had gone entirely too far.



ADMIRAL SIMS

Admiral Sims
Sang several Irish hymns
About zebras and jackasses.
They occasioned fracases.



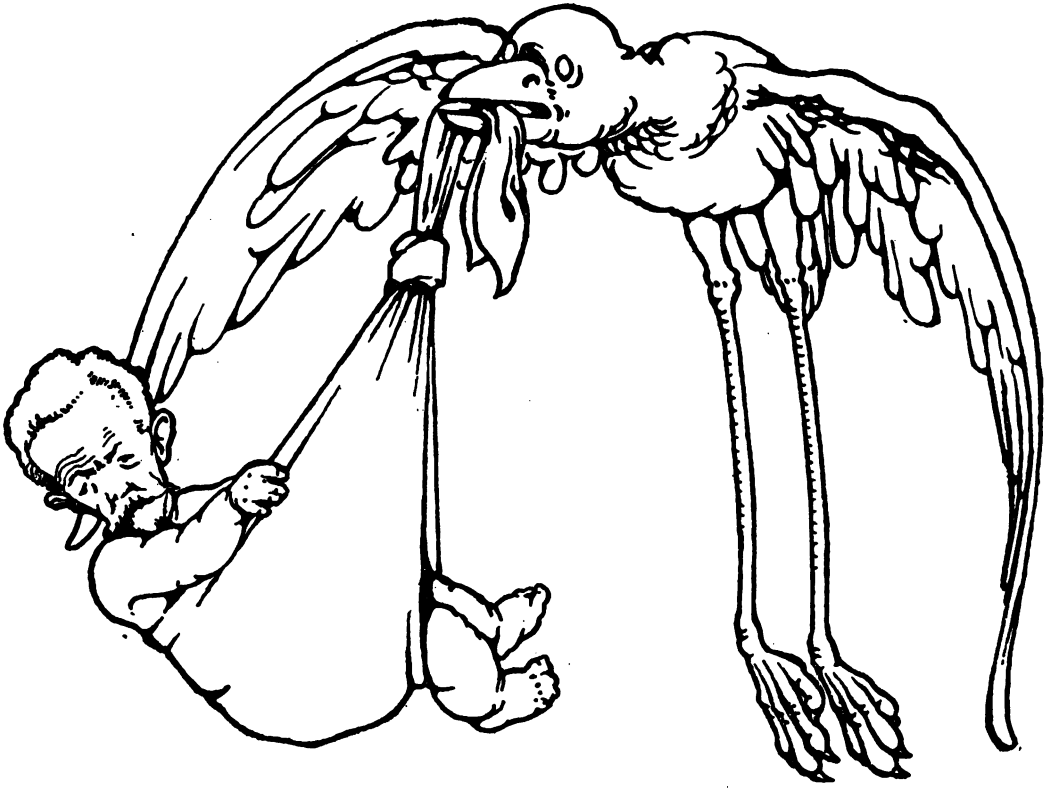
WOODROW WILSON

Of this country while President
Mr. Wilson was frequently a resident
It is now rumored that he contemplates
Settling in the United States.


HOME
W
R

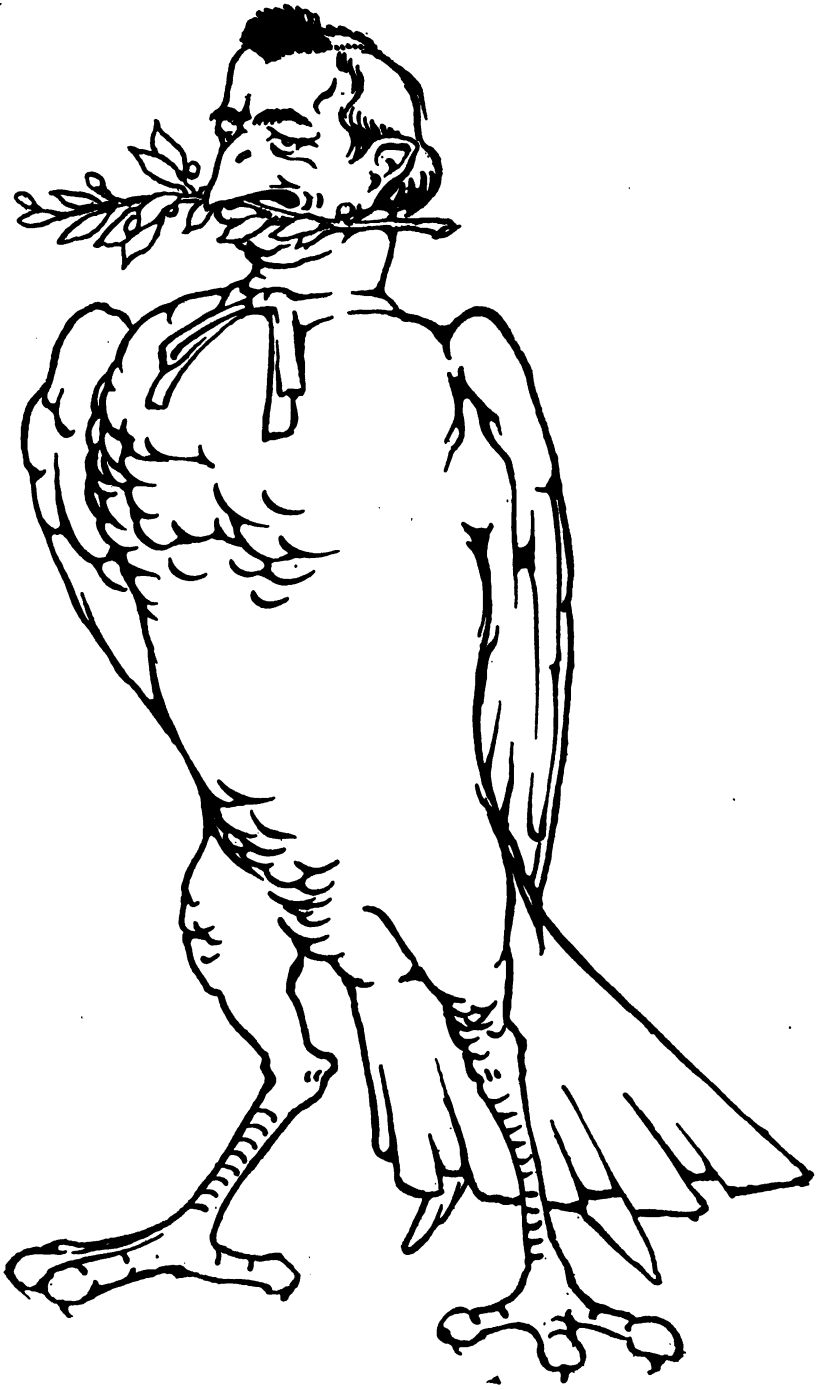
HENRY CABOT LODGE

An erratic view sets
Senator Lodge down as born in Massachusetts.
It is coming to be known that the stork
Deposited him in Cork.



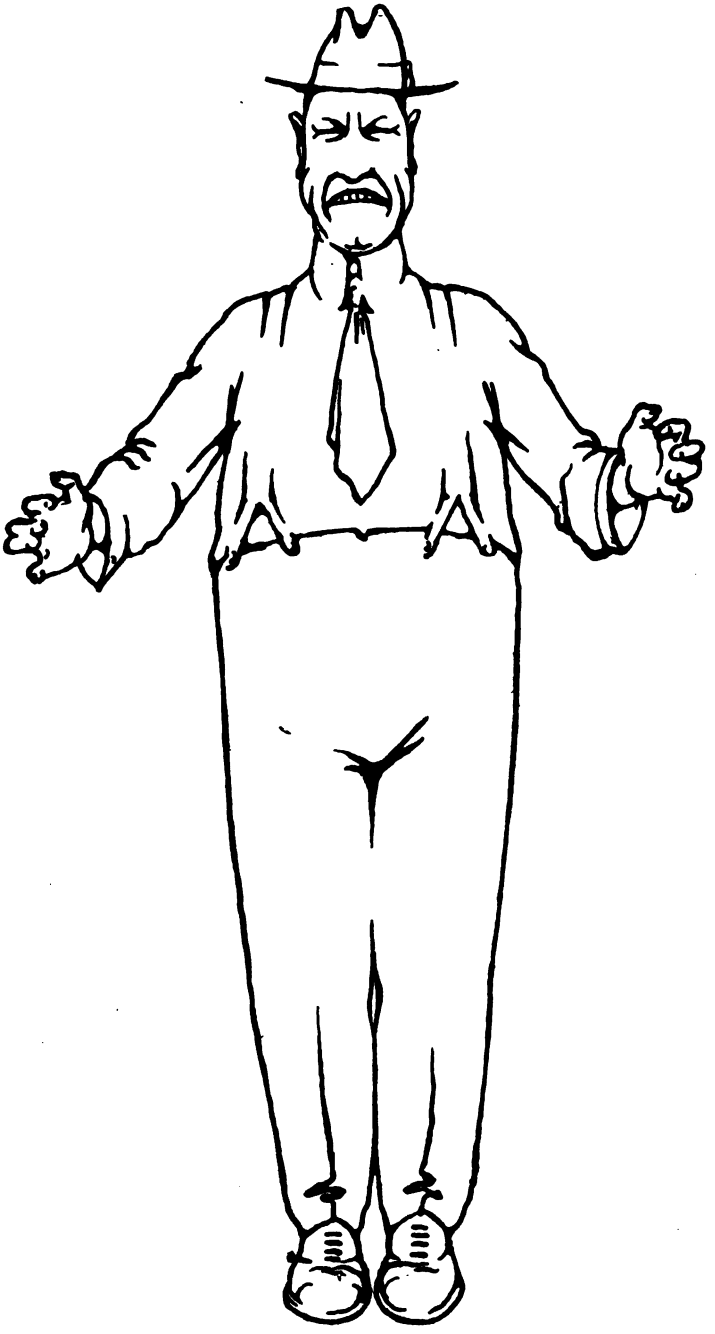
WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Mr. Bryan
Must be as bold as any lion.
When addressing Chautauqua
He intrepidly declines to talk war.



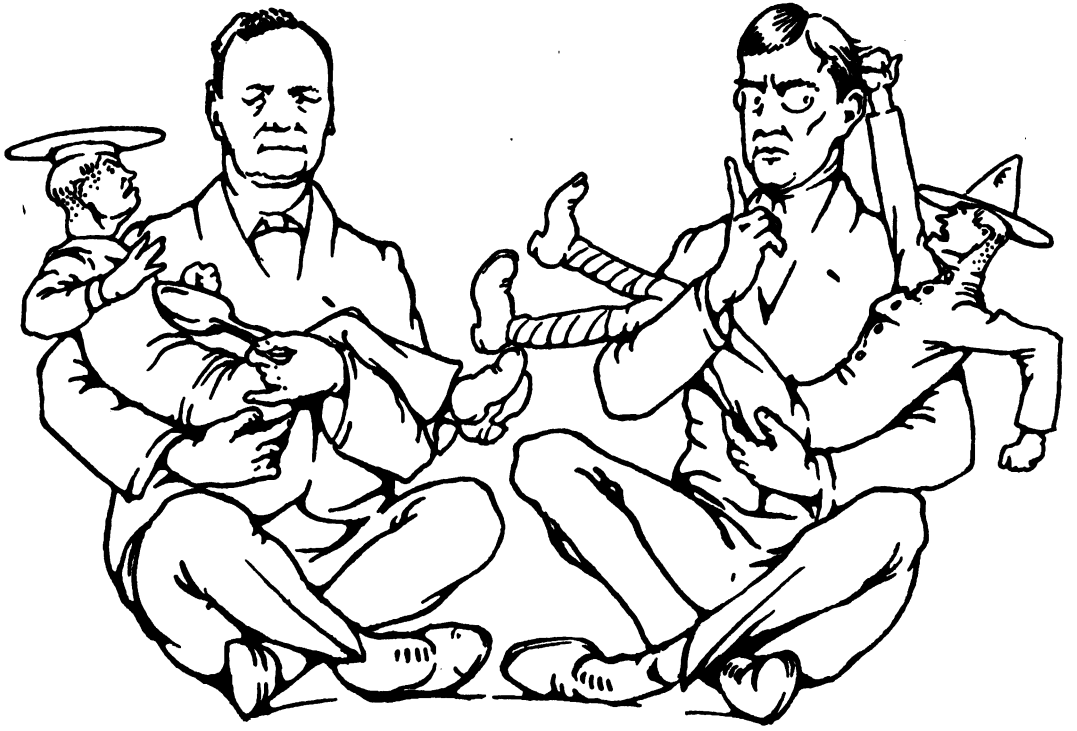
WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

Mr. William Randolph Hearst
Never could do his worst.
This would have discouraged most men;
But he tried it again and again.



MR. BAKER AND MR. DANIELS

Mr. Baker, Secretary of War,
Reasoned with soldiers who swore;
While Mr. Daniels, Secretary of the Navy,
Fed profane seamen on gravy.



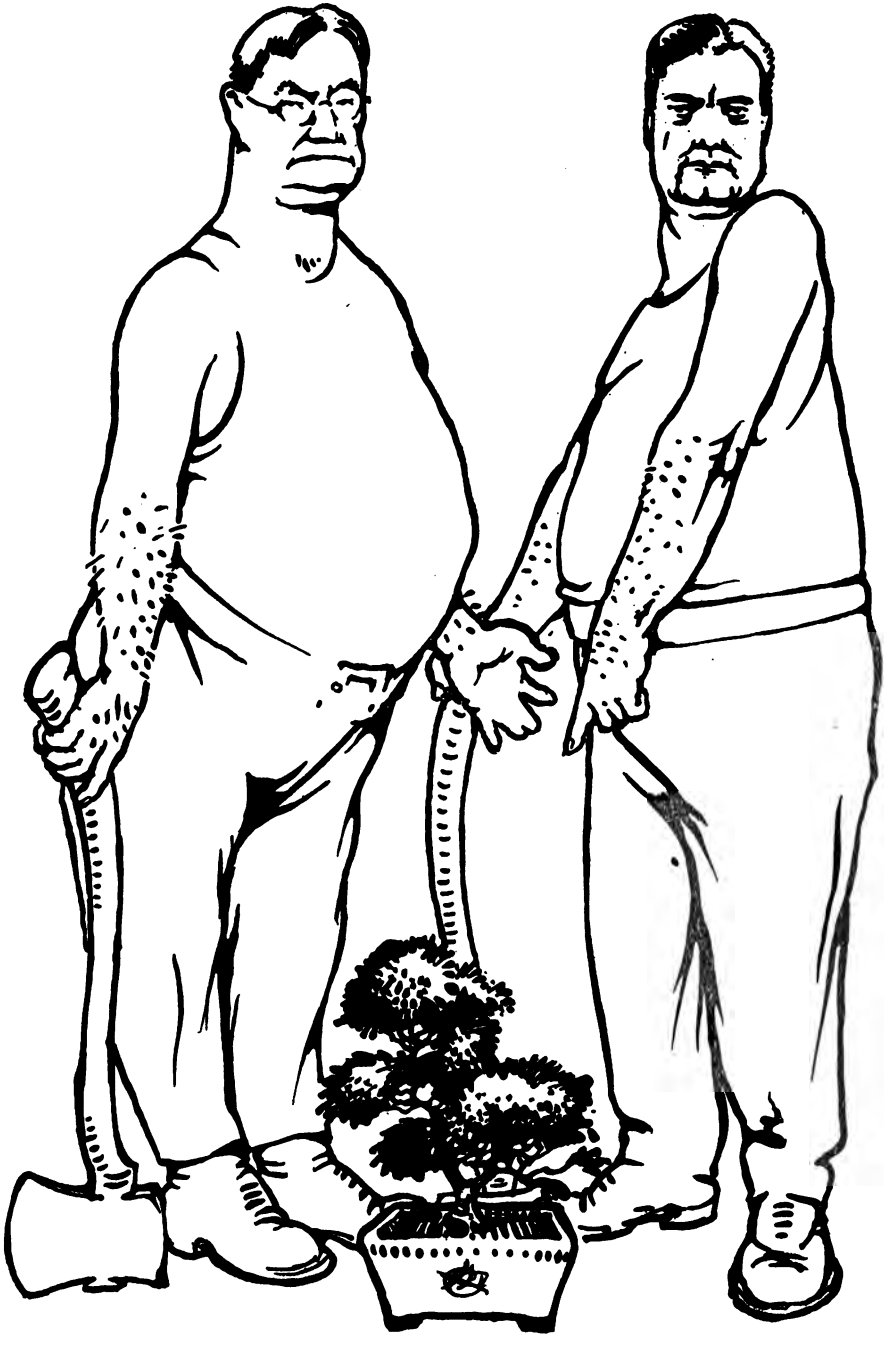
W. G. McADOO

Mr. McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury,
Never said with what pleasure he
Would, if so the Nation choose,
Wear his father-in-law's shoes.



SENATORS JOHNSON AND BORAH

Hiram Johnson says that ----
Should be cleared out to a man.
Borah of Idaho
Likewise says so.



SENATOR LAFOLLETTE

Senator LaFollette
is easily to be met;
Just write him a note,
Enclosing a German vote.



THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE

Many in the fifties found it wise
To avoid reference to the Missouri Compromise;
Most of us may
Unhesitatingly mention it to-day.



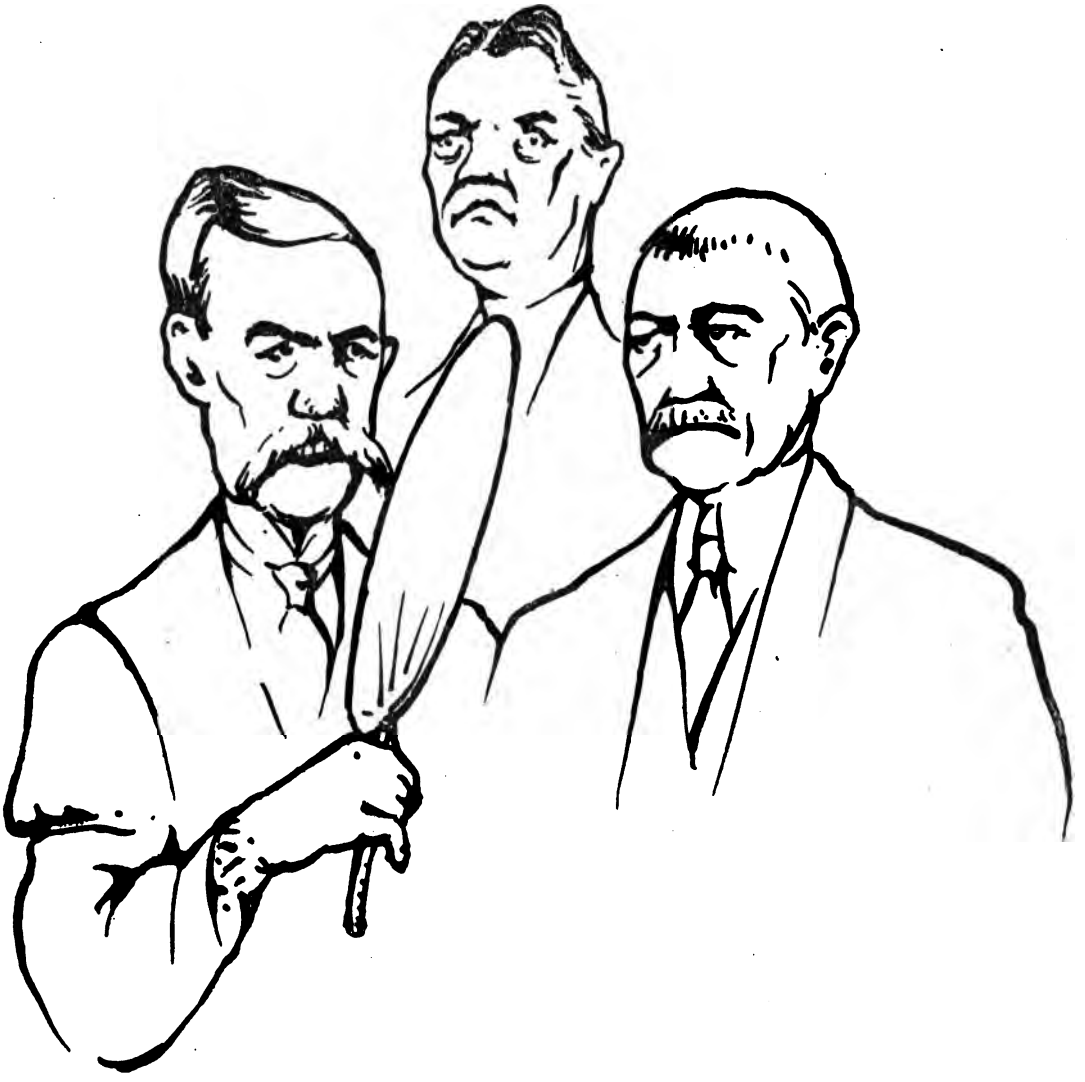
WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

Mr. Taft
When he fell down always laughed.
He said that he found it best
To take serious matters in jest.



ELIHU ROOT *et al*

Senator Root
Was invited to lunch by Senator Smoot,
Which caused Senator Owen
To regret that he wasn't goin'.



SENATOR NORRIS

Senator Norris
Never met the poet Horace:
You see, Nebraska is a State
They admitted too late.



COLONEL HOUSE

Colonel House
Would never attend a carouse.
Said he, jocosely: "My principles are set
Against any bank-wet."



CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS

Charles Francis Adams swore
He would not speak Latin any more.
When they said: "What will you consent to
speak?"
He replied: "Certainly not Greek."


ERSE
SANSCRIT
CELTIC
HEBREW
ARABIC
ASSYRIAN
ABYSSINIAN
HAMITIC
MALAY-
POLYNESIAN
SEMITIC
BANTU
PHOENICIAN
DRAVIDIAN
URAL-ALTAIC
HOTTENTOT
ELAMITE
TASMANIAN
TURANIAN
SUMERIAN
BASQUE
CHINESE
C.F.ADAMS.
ESQ.
BOOKS

ADAM

It has been asked when Adam
Began to address Eve as "Madam."
Some think it was after the Fall;
Others contend he never did it at all.


DRY GOODS

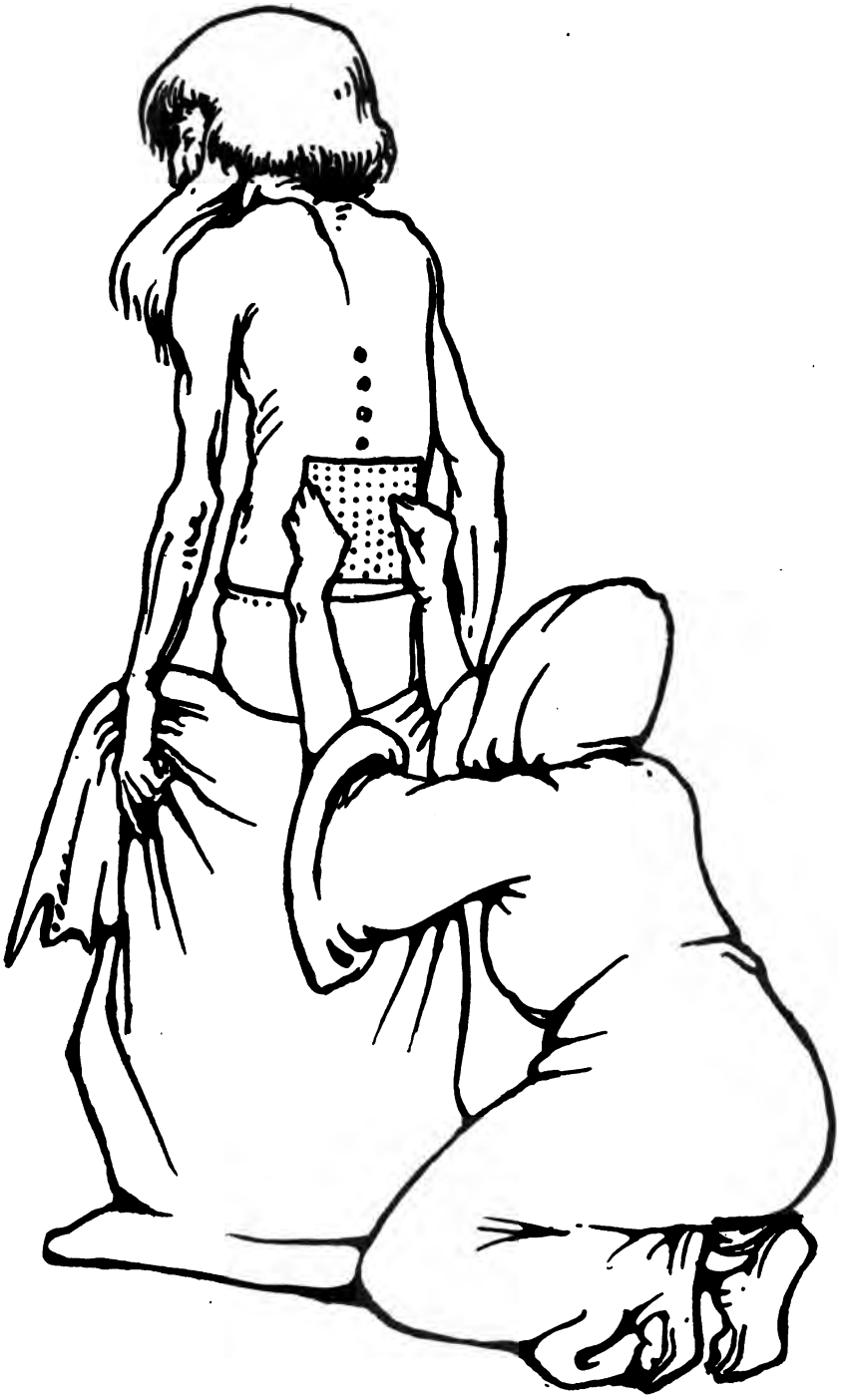
MOSES

That poker was played by Moses
No one seriously supposes.
I am afraid
We shall never know what he played.


I
II
III
IV
V
VI
VII
VIII

ZOROASTER

Zoroaster
Invariably wore a lumbago plaster,
Though all his biographers omit
To mention it.



JUSTIN MARTYR

Justin Martyr
Inadvertently mislaid his garter;
He mentioned it to Saint Augustine,
But the article hadn't been seen.



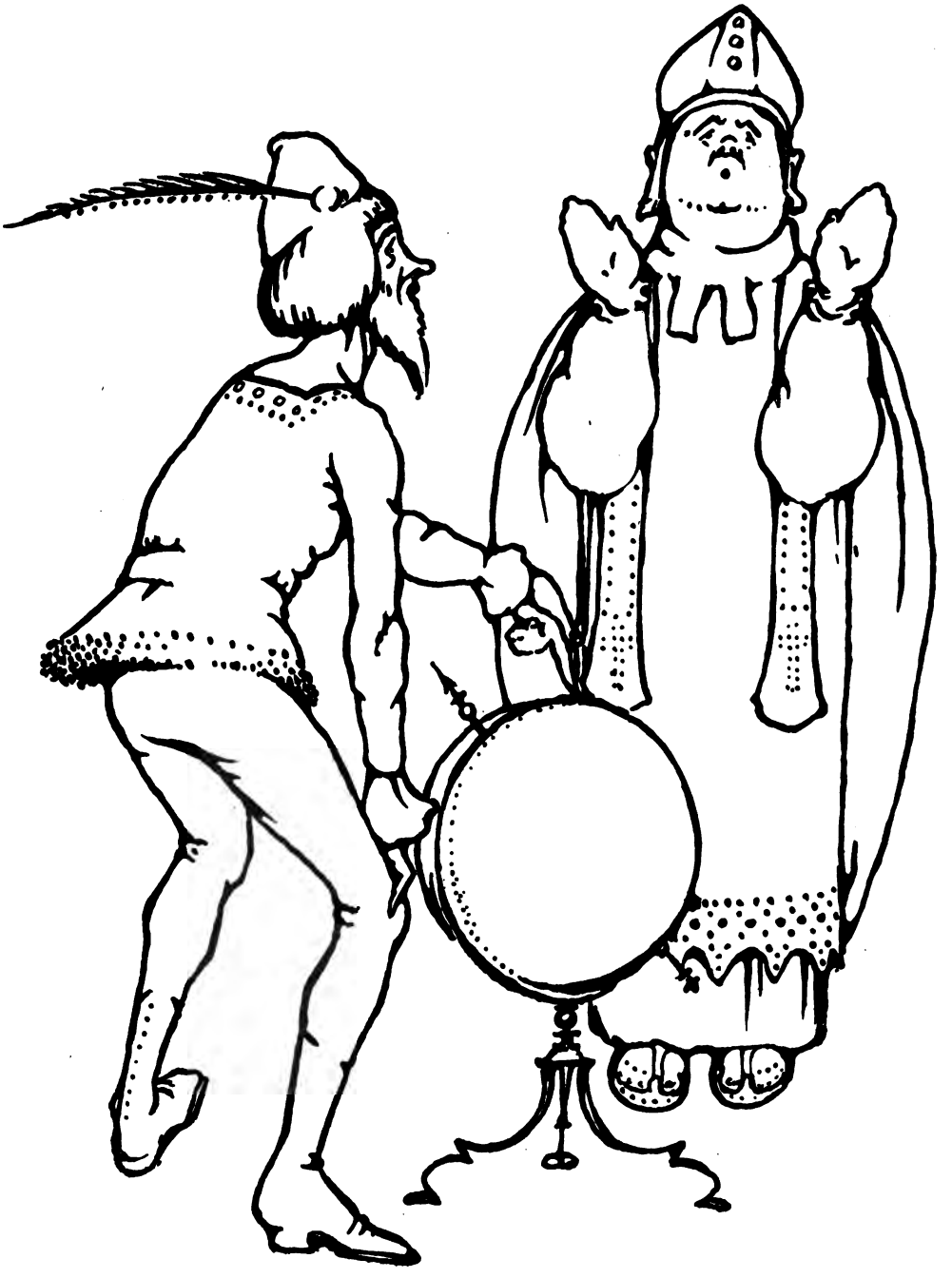
THE GOOD KING DAGOBERT

In reversing his trousers, Dagobert
Must have exposed some shirt:
A supposition which fills
Earnest dress-reformers with chills.



GALILEO

Galileo was well thought of until
He denied that the world stood still.
It was then that he began
To displease the Vatican.



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Columbus was accepted as sane;
But he set out for the Spanish Main
Asserting the earth to be round:
That made people ask if he were quite sound.



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

When Shakespeare was forsaken
By those who preferred Bacon,
It isn't generally known
That he asked J. P. Morgan for a loan.



NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

Some say that Bonaparte
Knew Caesar's Commentaries by heart.
I can state that I have met boys
Whom this work definitely annoys.



EDGAR ALLEN POE

Edgar Allen Poe
Never could bear Harriet Beecher Stowe.
He said that she would talk about slaves
When he wanted to talk about graves.



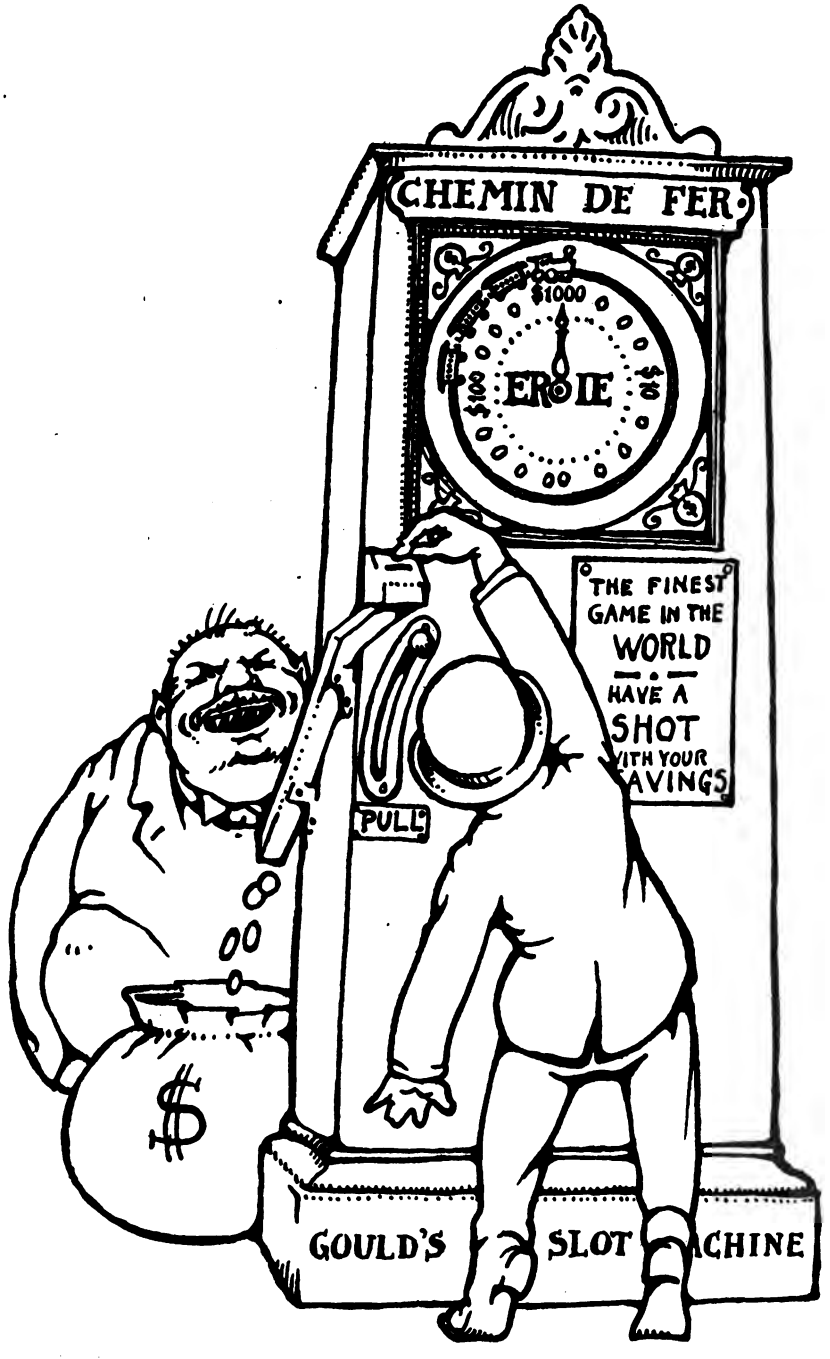
RICHARD WAGNER

When he began the Ring
Wagner had never learned how to sing;
When he had finished
This deficiency was not diminished.



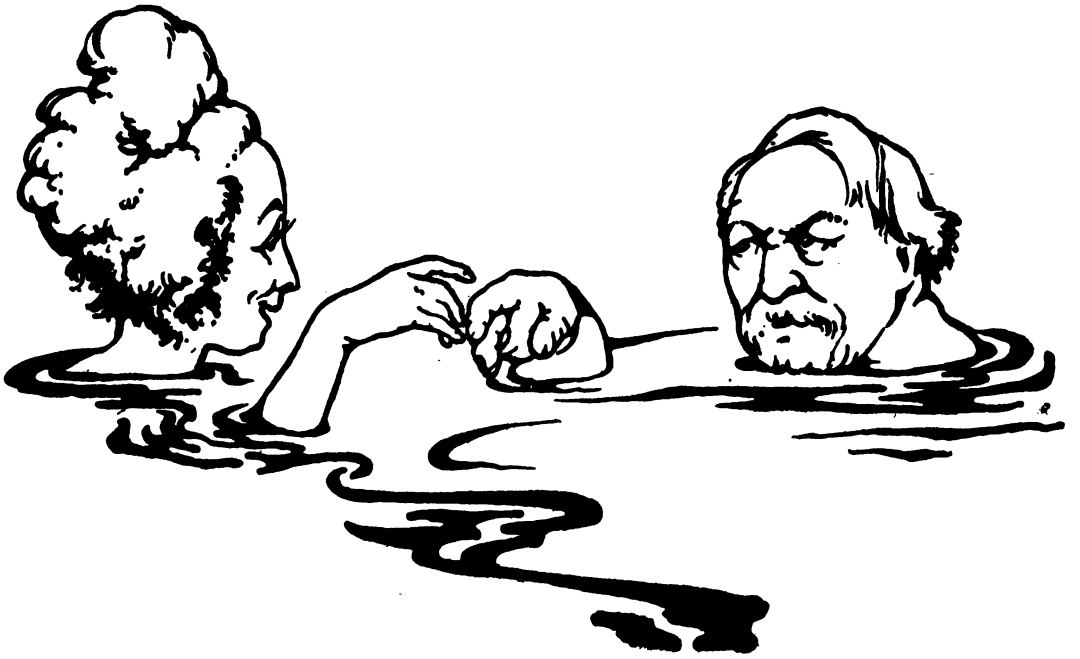
JAY GOULD

The late Jay Gould
Had his stock-holders fooled.
They grew very weary
Waiting for dividends in Erie.


CHEMIN DE FER
$1000
ERIE
$100
$10
THE FINEST
GAME IN THE
WORLD
HAVE A
SHOT
WITH YOUR
SAVINGS
PULL
$
GOULD'S
SLOT
CHINE

ROBERT BROWNING

The poet Browning
Was in the act of drowning,
When he fell in with George Sand.
That decided him to land.



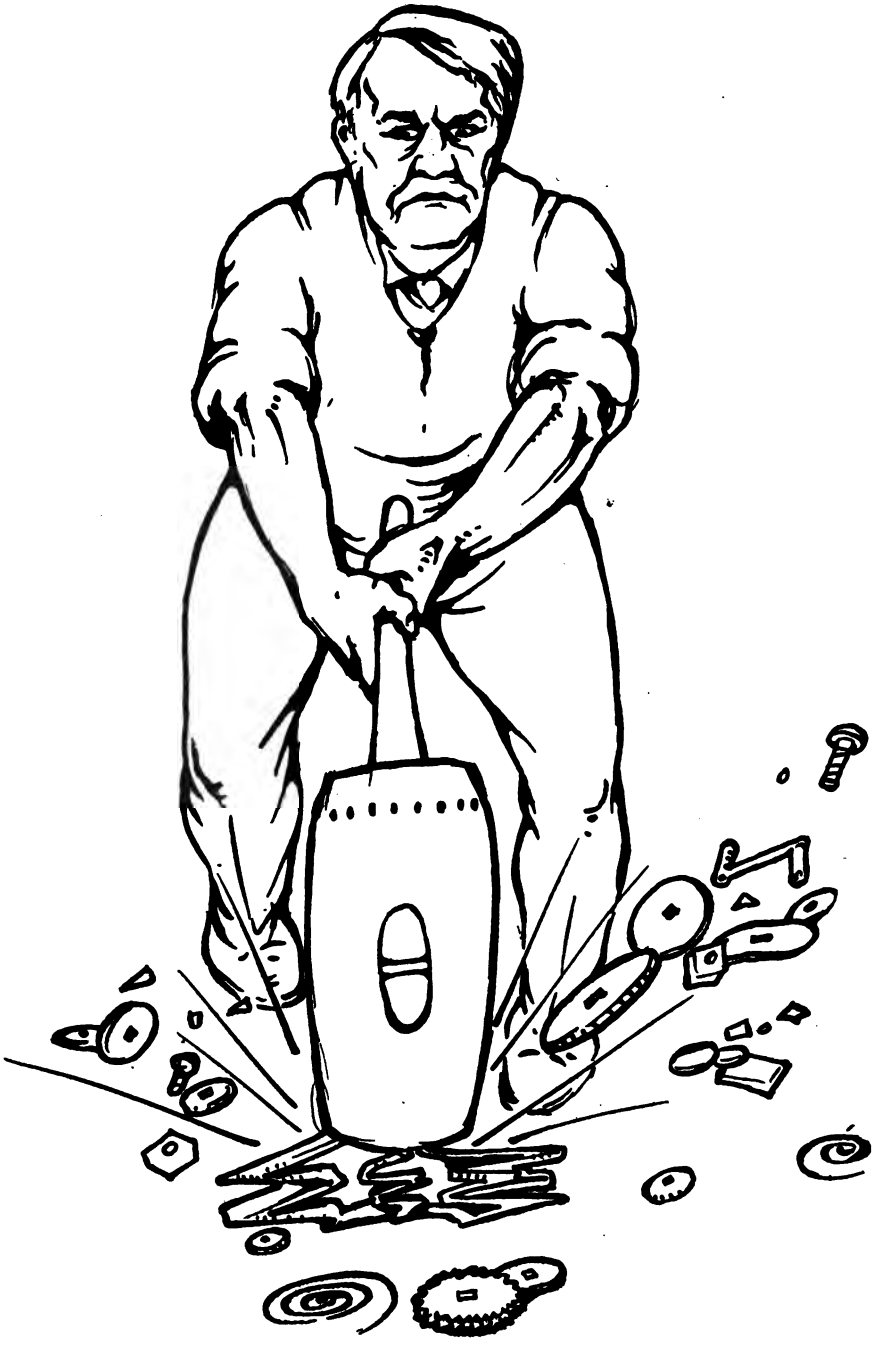
ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE

Algernon Swinburne once wrote
An anonymous letter to Mr. Choate,
In which he very kindly offered to show him
How to write an erotic poem.



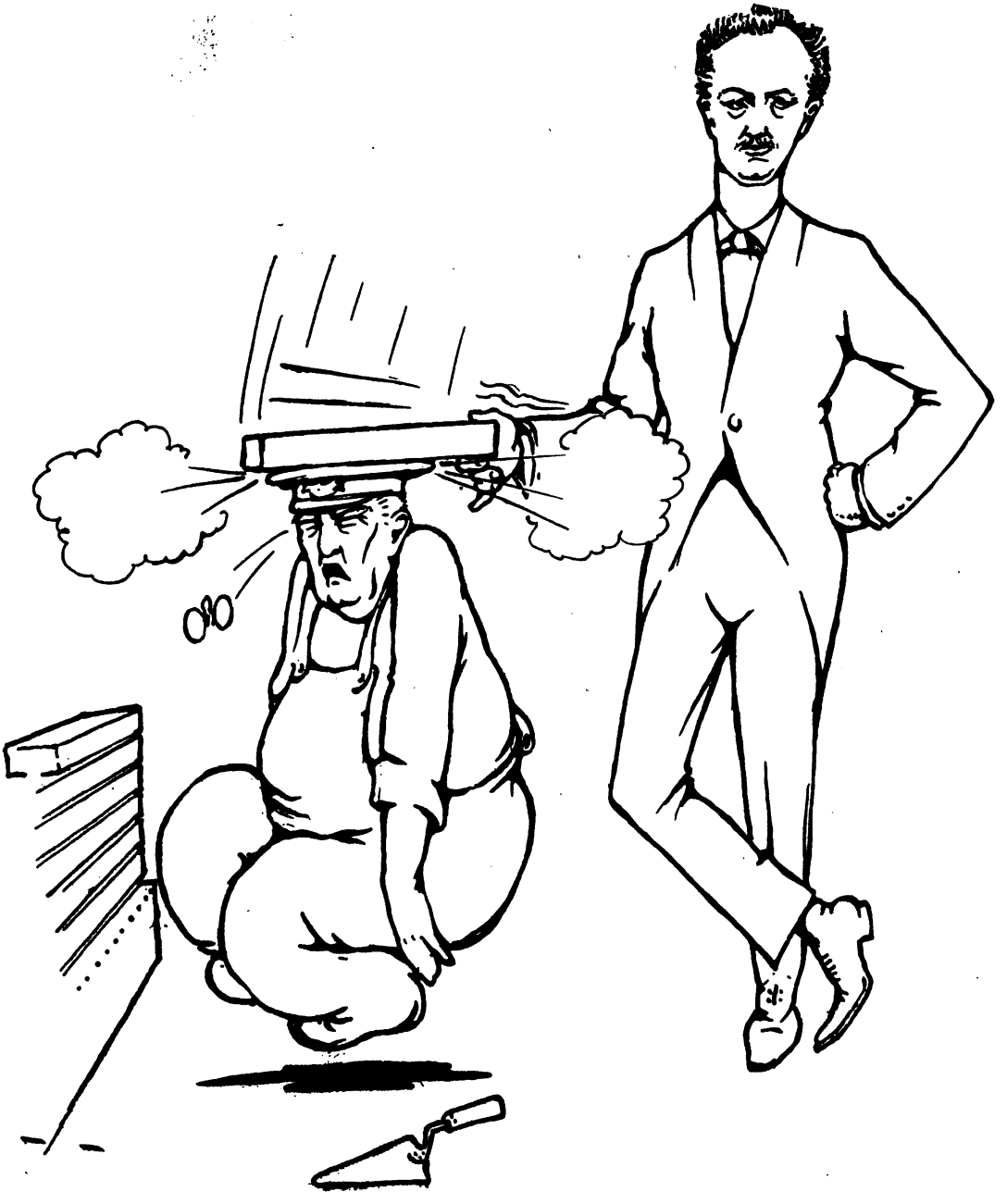
THOMAS EDISON

Thomas Edison made a machine
By which people's thoughts could be seen;
But he smashed it at once.
Thomas was no dunce.



JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

By building a new house
Sousa deeply incensed Richard Strauss:
He said that the Yankee musician
Should be taught his position.



HAROLD BELL WRIGHT

Harold Bell Wright
Finishes a novel every night,
Except Sundays.
So he finishes two on Mondays.



GABRIEL D'ANNUNZIO

Upon getting into Fiume, d'Annunzio
Exclaimed: "Here's a go!"
The Entente found the word
In questionable taste, if not absurd.



THE BIG FOUR

The Big Four looked for good behavior
On the part of Jugo-Slavia.
They based their calculations
On the League of Nations.


COVENANT

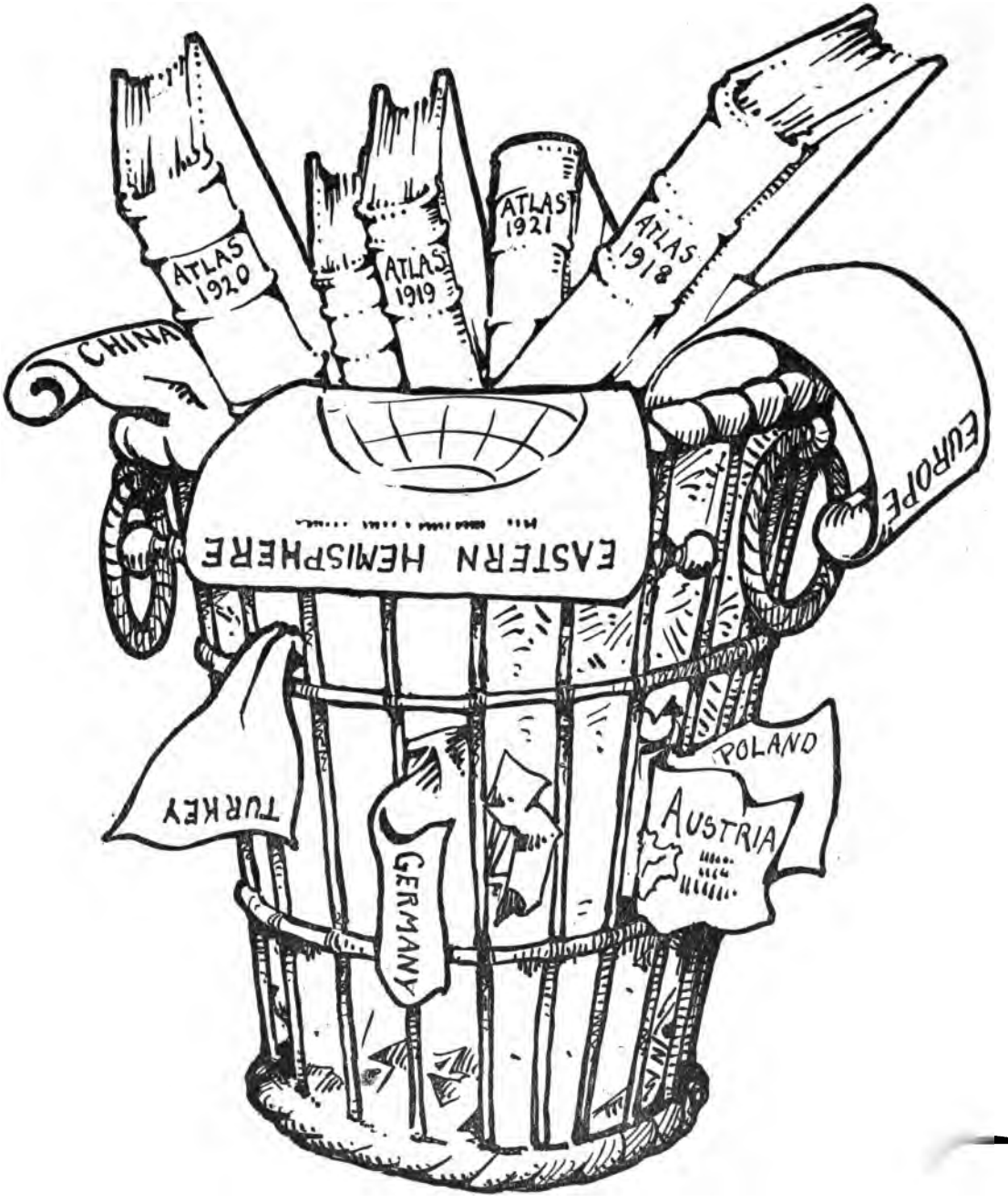
DAVID LLOYD GEORGE

Mr. Lloyd George was starting for a walk
When he began to talk.
That's the way
It got put off till the next day.


THE
WORLD
PATIENT

RAND McNALLY

That Rand McNally makes maps
You may have heard, perhaps.
That's why he always smiles
When they mention the Treaty of Versailles.


ATLAS 1920
ATLAS 1919
ATLAS 1921
ATLAS 1918
CHINA
EASTERN HEMISPHERE
EUROPE
TURKEY
GERMANY
ROLAND
AUSTRIA

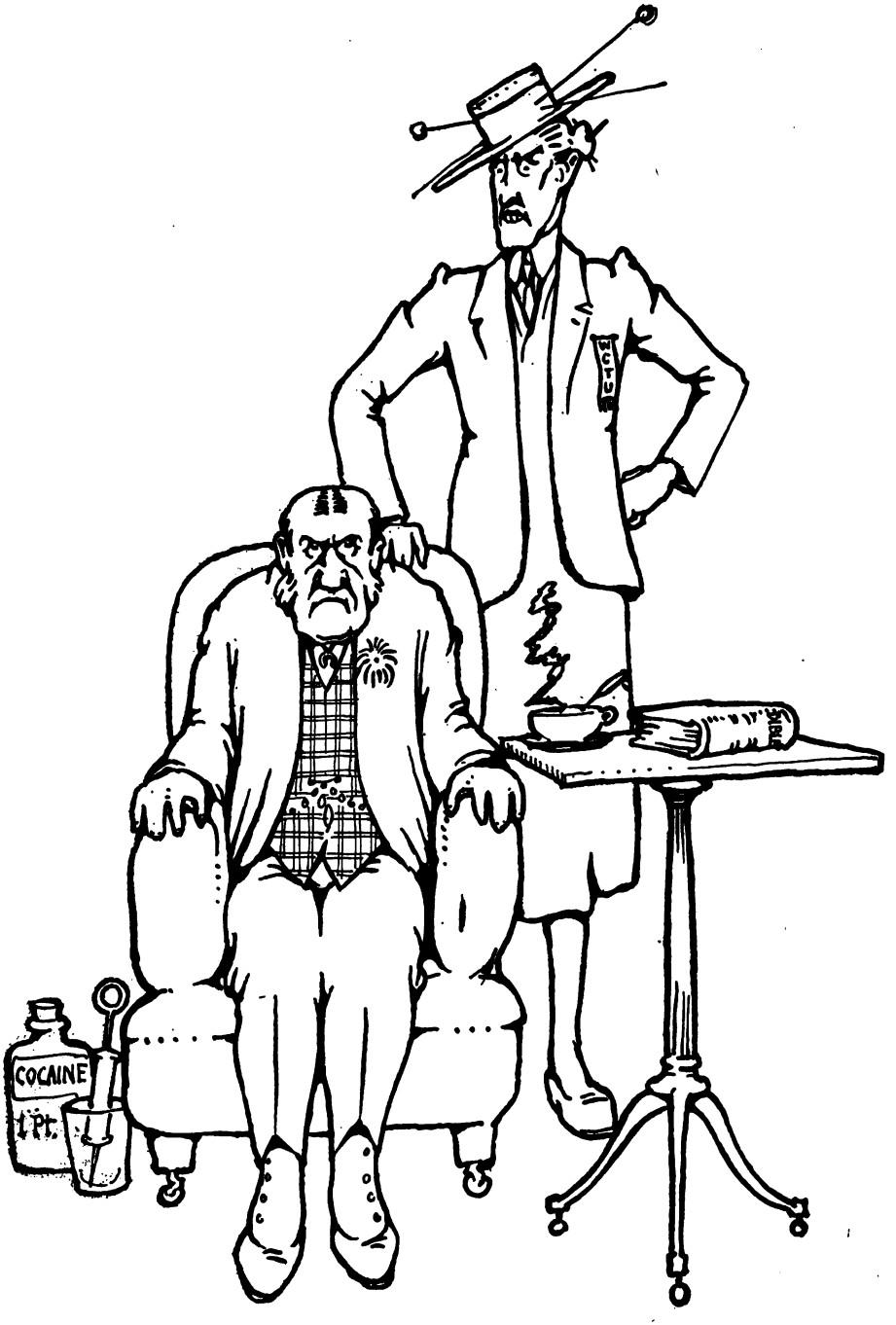
JOHN SARGENT AND MISS BEAUX

John Sargent once painted
A man so veraciously that the man fainted.
Cecilia Beaux said, "That ain't
The way to paint."



THE W. C. T. U.

It is hard to say what the W. C. T. U.
Will do:
It has driven the Nation to drink.
What next, do you think?


COCAINE
1 Pt.

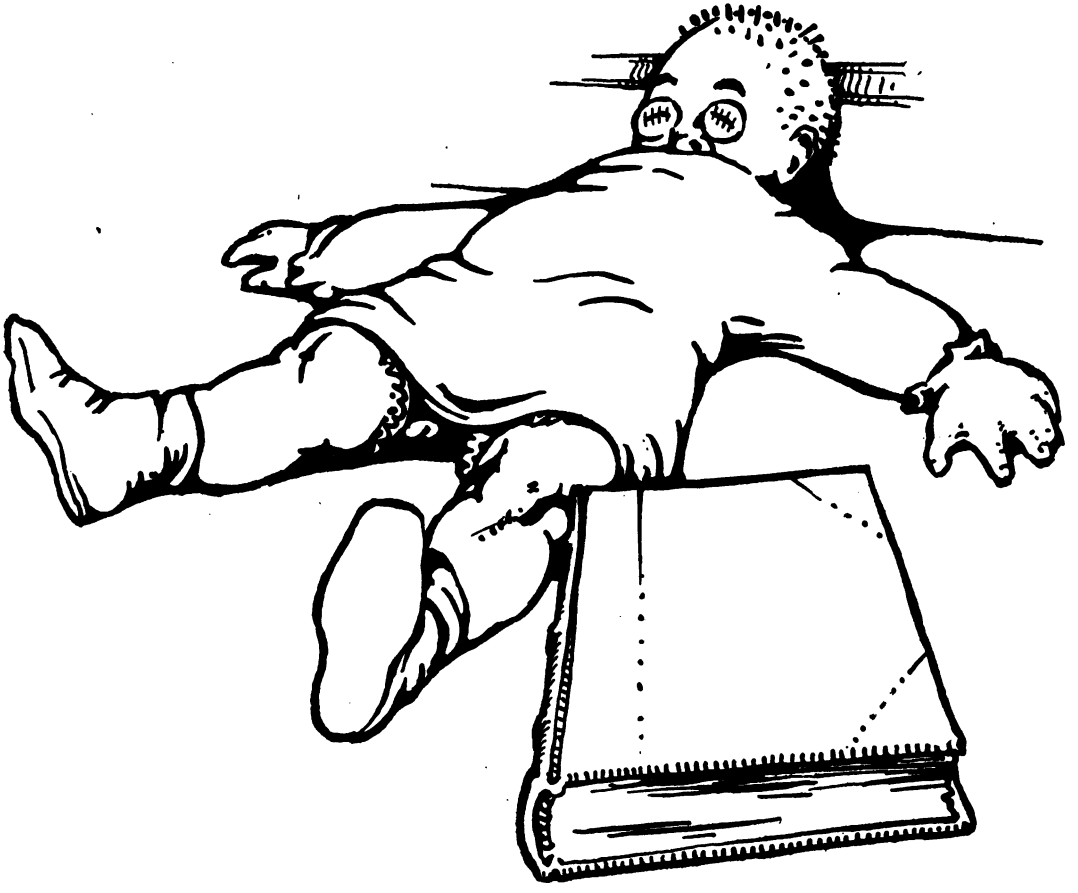
MISS LOWELL

When Amy Lowell wrote some verse
Rather freely about a hearse,
They said to her: "Does it strike you
That the corpse will be apt to like you?"



EPILOGUE

We feel that this is enough at present
For the minds of the adolescent.
Therefore further facts worthy of mention
Are withheld from their attention.



ETHICAL INDEX

We do not understand why the person who said that the boy is father of the man did not also say that the girl is mother of the woman. Is she not? Then why leave her out? This little book tries to be fair to all, regardless of sex. As a glance will disclose, it is purely moral. It is designed to help parents, teachers and guardians of any sex in the care of the young of any sex, and it repudiates all reactionary distinctions based on mere gender. It is offered to the home and the school as a manual of character building; to make it as comprehensive as possible, History has been surveyed from the Garden of Eden to the League of Nations. The aim of the little work is to make people grow up good, not great. We regard greatness as an insult to equality, and we give no encouragement to the barren achievements of genius. Would you not prefer that your little boy, or your little girl, or your little whatever it is, should grow to manhood, or womanhood, or whatever it will be, displaying (for instance) the deep insight and self-effacing patriotism of a member of congress (whatever its sex) rather than the frivolous tendencies of (for instance) a Shakespeare? Therefore, when Shakespeare and other such afflicted persons are mentioned in these pages, it is either as a warning or because in spite of their deplorable lives their conduct has at times been worthy of imitation.

Abnegation.....may serve best interests of humanity.....Edison
Absentmindedness....may defeat good intentions.....Lloyd George
Acquisitiveness.....important to captains of transportation...Gould
Activity.....commendable in mind and body.....Browning
Altruism.....never out of place.....Swinburne
Ambition.....should always be lofty.....McAdoo
(and see also W. C. T. U.)
American Army.....should be humanely treated....Baker & Daniels
ditto Navy.....disturbing abuse of.....Roosevelt
ditto ditto.....should be suitably dieted.....Baker & Daniels
ditto Parents....culpable irresponsibility of.....Washington
ditto Patriot.....should always be modest.....Decatur

American Statesman..deprived of advantages by habitat.....Norris
ditto ditto.....opinions affected by birth place.....Lodge
ditto ditto.....should always be sociable..... Root
ditto ditto.....should always be approachable.....La Follette
Antipathy.....justifiable when directed against pedantry..Adams
Astronomy.....should not be carried too far.....Galileo

Balance.....regrettably absent in judicial nature.....Taft
ditto.....lack of may prove a timely spur.....Shakespeare
Business sense.....should never die.....Franklin
ditto.....may occur even in poetic nature.....Shakespeare

Carelessness.....in biographers.....Zoroaster
(and see Young and Shakespeare)
ditto.....in early fathers of church.....Justin Martyr
Caution.....to be exercised in signing letters.....Swinburne
Capsicum.....early use of.....Zoroaster
Conservatism.....overtakes sailors on shore.....Roosevelt
Constructiveness.....rare instance of in musician.....Sousa
Costume.....should not be conspicuous in males.....Dagobert
Courage.....should always adorn the educator.....Bryan
Courtesy.....graceful between belligerents.....Hamilton
Credulity.....to be avoided by investors.....Gould
ditto.....in panaceas.....The Big Four

Dignity.....in rebuke of jokers.....D'Annunzio
Domicile.....should not be hastily chosen.....Wilson
ditto.....may contract world experience.....Norris

Education.....flouted by arrogant musician.....Wagner
ditto.....reformed by prominent Bostonian.....Adams
ditto.....of plain people commendable.....Bryan
Economy.....sought in foot wear.....McAdoo
Egotism.....Petulant indulgence in.....Poe
Envy.....characteristic of genius.....Sousa
Ethnology.....the foundation of peace.....The Big Four
Exercise.....opportunist postponement of.....Lloyd George

Family ties.....should never influence official responsibility.Grant
ditto.....should not be ignored by biographers.....Young

Firmness.....apt exercise of.....Adams
(and see Bryan)
Flippancy.....always out of place.....D'Annunzio
Foresight.....not invariable in statesmen.....Jefferson

Government.....should be maternal.....W. C. T. U.

Health.....attention to essential for leaders.....Zoroaster
Hope.....often apparent in investors.....Gould
Human nature.....understood by.....Edison
Humor.....defensive use of.....House
ditto.....present even in geographers.....McNally

Imitation.....happy case of.....Johnson & Borah
Impatience.....a sign of vanity.....Poe
Indiscretion.....not advisable in free verse.....Lowell
Industry.....displayed by creator of epics.....Wright
Intemperance.....in language to be discouraged...Baker & Daniels
Intolerance.....unworthy display of.....Poe
Inventiveness.....must not tamper with nature's secrets...Edison
Irritability.....never helps.....Jackson

Jealousy.....too common in artists.....Sargent & Beaux

Knowledge.....insufficiently imparted.....Jackson

Latin.....repudiated by the adult.....Adams
ditto..... ditto by the immature.....Bonaparte
Legislation.....variable in psychological reactions
The Missouri Compromise
Loquacity.....a source of friction.....Poe

Matrimony.....Vicissitudes of may be mere gossip.....Adam
Mathematics.....heretical abuse of.....Galileo
Mediaevalism.....in toilet to be discouraged.....Dagobert
Memory.....retentive in military mind.....Bonaparte
Militarism.....tactfully restrained.....Baker & Daniels
Multiplicity.....matrimonial imperfectly chronicled.....Young
Mystery.....often surrounds great personalities.....Moses
ditto..... ditto conjugal life.....Adam

Narrowness.....regrettable in artists.....Sargent & Beaux
Naturalization.....carefully deliberated.....Wilson
Nebraska.....too recent for complete cosmopolitanism...Norris
Normalcy.....restored by female influence.....Browning

Obstinacy.....natural reward of.....Galileo
Optimism.....cheerful display of.....Taft
(and see The Big Four)

Painters.....ruthless quality in.....Sargent & Beaux
Patience.....may be acquired through investments.....Gould
Patriotism.....commendable always in men of action...Decatur
ditto..... ditto ditto in men of reflection
Johnson & Boran
Perseverance.....an ornament to man of letters.....Hearst
Pessimism.....cured by sudden shock.....Browning
Piety.....beautiful in epic creator.....Wright
Plagiarism.....apparent not real.....Perry
Prejudice.....never edifying.....Jackson
Profanity.....we should always try to cure it in others
Baker & Daniels
Pronunciation.....a supposed test of breeding.....Jackson
Prophetic gift.....lack of favors serenity.....Jefferson
Psychology.....sometimes defective in diplomats...The Big Four
Purism.....is it worth while?.....Jackson

Querulousness.....of poets.....Poe
Quixotism.....in scientist.....Edison

Rashness.....of statement to be avoided.....McAdoo
ditto..... ditto not resisted.....D'Annunzio
Recreation.....needful in posts of responsibility.....Moses
Reform.....instinct for strong in females.....W. C. T. U.
Regularity.....marks highest genius.....Wright
Relatives.....must not hamper men of action.....Grant
ditto.....by marriage should count.....Young
Resourcefulness.....can occur in poets.....Shakespeare
Restlessness.....not necessarily incurable.....Wilson
Rheumatism.....known to ancients.....Zoroaster

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